CLEAN CLAIMS

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A ballistic barrier in combination with an outer shell of a vehicle for protecting objects in an interior of said vehicle from damage due to projectile penetration, said outer shell defining said interior of said vehicle, said ballistic barrier in combination with said outer shell comprising:

at least one layer of fabric disposed in said interior of said vehicle, wherein said at least one layer of fabric has a light weight and is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment munition or projectile; and

said at least one layer of fabric being substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises a plurality of plies.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 2, wherein one of said plurality of plies is a felt.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one of said plurality of plies is comprises woven fibers.

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6. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises a polymer material.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises aramid material.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polyethylene material.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polybenzoxazole material.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said vehicle includes an inner panel, and wherein said at least one layer of fabric is positioned between said outer shell and said inner panel of said vehicle.

11. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for military applications.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for transporting at least one of cargo and passengers.

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14. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 1, wherein said vehicle is an aircraft.

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17. (ONCE AMENDED) A ballistic barrier in combination with a an outer housing of a structure for protecting objects in said structure from damage due to projectile penetration, said ballistic barrier in combination with said outer housing comprising:
at least one layer of fabric disposed in said interior of said structure, wherein said at least one layer is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment munition or projectile and has a light weight; and
said at least one layer of fabric being substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer housing and at a finite distance away from said outer housing.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises a plurality of plies.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 18, wherein one of said plurality of plies is a felt.

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22. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises a polymer material.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises aramid material.

24. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polyethylene material.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polybenzoxazole material.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric is positioned towards an inner surface of said outer housing of said structure.

27. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic barrier as recited in claim 17, wherein said at least one layer of fabric is positioned towards an outer surface of said outer housing of said structure.

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38. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for protecting objects in an interior of a vehicle from damage due to projectile penetration, said vehicle having an outer shell defining said interior of said vehicle, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fabric in said interior of said vehicle towards said outer shell of said vehicle and at a finite distance away from said outer shell, wherein said at least one layer of fabric has a low weight and is capable of absorbing a kinetic energy of a fragment of munition or projectile; and

attaching said at least one layer of fabric to said vehicle such that said at least one layer of fabric is substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.

~~39.~~ (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said vehicle includes an inner panel, and wherein said at least one layer of fabric is positioned between said outer shell and said inner panel of said vehicle.

40. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for military applications.

41. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for transporting at least one of cargo and passengers.

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44. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for protecting objects in a structure from damage due to projectile penetration, said structure having an outer housing, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fabric in said structure towards said outer housing of said structure and at a finite distance away from said outer housing, wherein said at least one layer of fabric has a low weight and is capable of absorbing a kinetic energy of a fragment of munition or projectile; and

attaching said at least one layer of fabric to said structure such that said at least one layer of fabric is substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer housing and at a finite distance away from said outer housing.

45. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises a plurality of plies.

46. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein one of said plurality of plies is a felt.

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48. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises aramid material.

49. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polyethylene material.

50. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, wherein said at least one layer of fabric comprises polybenzoxazole material.

51. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, further comprising positioning said at least one layer of fabric towards an inner surface of said outer housing.

52. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 44, further comprising positioning said at least one layer of fabric towards an outer surface of said outer housing.

53. (ONCE AMENDED) A fire barrier in combination with a vehicle for protecting objects in an interior of said vehicle from damage due to fire, said vehicle having an outer shell defining said interior, said fire barrier in combination with said vehicle comprising:
at least one layer of fire resistant fabric disposed in said interior of said vehicle and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell of said vehicle and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.

54. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises a plurality of plies.

55. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises a polymer material.

56. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises aramid material.

57. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises polybenzoxazole material.

58. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said vehicle includes an inner panel, and wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric is positioned between said outer shell and said inner panel of said vehicle.

59. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for military applications.

60. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for transporting at least one of cargo and passengers.

61. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said vehicle is an aircraft.

62. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, further including a layer of projectile resistant fabric positioned in said interior of said vehicle for protecting objects in said interior of said vehicle from damage due to projectile penetration.

63. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 62, wherein said layer of projectile resistant fabric is fixedly positioned with respect to said outer shell of said vehicle.

64. (ONCE AMENDED) A fire barrier in combination with a structure for protecting objects in said structure from damage due to fire, said structure having an outer shell defining an interior of said structure, said fire barrier in combination with said structure comprising:

at least one layer of fire resistant fabric disposed in said interior of said structure and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.

65. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 64, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises aramid material.

66. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 64, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises polybenzoxazole material.

67. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 64, further including a layer of projectile resistant fabric positioned in said interior of said structure for protecting objects in said interior of said structure from damage due to projectile penetration.

68. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 67, wherein said layer of projectile resistant fabric is fixedly positioned with respect to said outer shell of said structure.

69. (ONCE AMENDED) A ballistic and fire barrier in combination with a vehicle for protecting objects in an interior of said vehicle from damage due to projectile penetration

and fire, said vehicle having an outer shell defining said interior, said ballistic and fire barrier in combination with said vehicle comprising:

at least one layer of fabric disposed in said interior of said vehicle and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance from said outer shell, wherein said at least one layer of fabric has a light weight and is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment munition or projectile, wherein said at least one layer of fabric is at a finite distance away from said outer shell; and

at least one layer of fire resistant fabric disposed in said interior of said vehicle and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.

70. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for protecting objects in an interior of a vehicle from damage and injury due to fire, said vehicle having an outer shell defining said interior of said vehicle, the method comprising:

positioning at least one layer of fire resistant fabric in said interior of said vehicle towards said outer shell of said vehicle; and

attaching said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric to said vehicle such that said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric is substantially fixedly positioned at a finite distance away from said outer shell of said vehicle.

71. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein said vehicle includes an inner panel, and wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric is positioned between said outer shell and said inner panel of said vehicle.

72. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for military applications.

73. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein said vehicle is primarily designed for transporting at least one of cargo and passengers.

74. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein said vehicle is an aircraft.

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76. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, further comprising positioning at least one layer of fabric that has a low weight and is capable of absorbing kinetic

energy of a fragment munition or projectile in said interior of said vehicle for protecting objects in said interior of said vehicle from damage due to projectile penetration.

77. (ONCE AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 70, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises a felt.

78. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 53, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises a fire resistant felt.

79. (ONCE AMENDED) The fire barrier as recited in claim 64, wherein said at least one layer of fire resistant fabric comprises a fire resistant felt.

80. (ONCE AMENDED) The ballistic and fire barrier in combination with a structure for protecting objects in an interior of said structure from damage and injury due to projectile penetration and fire, said structure having an outer shell defining said interior of said structure,said ballistic and fire barrier in combination with said structure comprising:

at least one layer of fabric disposed in said interior of said structure and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell, wherein said at least one layer of fabric has a light weight and is capable of absorbing kinetic energy of a fragment munition or projectile; and

at least one layer of fire resistant fabric disposed in said interior of said structure and substantially fixedly positioned towards said outer shell and at a finite distance away from said outer shell.